

Application No. 10/688,408  
Amendment dated September 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended).            A trouser belt, comprising:

- (a) a strap having a first and a second end, the strap comprising two substantially nonelastic portions and a short elastic portion, the short elastic portion located between the two nonelastic portions, the short elastic portion providing a limited amount of lengthwise expansion to the strap;
- (b) a buckle attached to the first end of the strap to secure a portion of the strap adjacent to the second end of the strap; and
- (c) a keeper on the strap adjacent to the buckle to hold the second of the belt to the first end of the belt, the keeper secured to the strap adjacent to the buckle, the short elastic portion located substantially beneath the keeper.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended).            The trouser belt of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the short elastic portion is generally hidden by the keeper.

Application No. 10/688,408  
Amendment dated September 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

Claim 4 (currently amended).      ~~The trouser belt of claim 1, wherein~~ A trouser belt,  
comprising:

- (a)    a strap having a first and a second end, the strap comprising two substantially nonelastic portions and a short elastic portion, the short elastic portion located between the two nonelastic portions, the short elastic portion providing a limited amount of lengthwise expansion to the strap;
- (b)    a buckle attached to the first end of the strap to secure a portion of the strap adjacent to the second end of the strap;
- (c)    a keeper on the strap adjacent to the buckle to hold the second of the belt to the first end of the belt; and
- (d)    the short elastic portion ~~comprises~~ comprising a first elastic strip and a second elastic strip, the first elastic strip lying face to face to the second elastic strip and wherein the keeper is secured between the first elastic strip and the second elastic strip.

Claim 5 (original).    A trouser belt, comprising:

- (a)    a strap having a first and a second end, two substantially nonelastic portions and short elastic portion, the short elastic portion located between the two nonelastic portions, the short elastic portion providing a limited amount of lengthwise expansion to the strap;

Application No. 10/688,408  
Amendment dated September 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

- (b) a buckle attached to the first end of the strap to secure a portion of the strap adjacent to the second end of the strap; and
- (c) a keeper secured to the strap adjacent to the buckle to hold the second of the belt to the first end of the belt, the short elastic portion being substantially beneath the keeper.

Claim 6 (original). The trouser belt of claim 5, wherein the short elastic portion is generally hidden by the keeper.

Claim 7 (currently amended). ~~The trouser belt of claim 5, wherein~~ A trouser belt, comprising:

- (a) a strap having a first and a second end, two substantially nonelastic portions and short elastic portion, the short elastic portion located between the two nonelastic portions, the short elastic portion providing a limited amount of lengthwise expansion to the strap;
- (b) a buckle attached to the first end of the strap to secure a portion of the strap adjacent to the second end of the strap;
- (c) a keeper secured to the strap adjacent to the buckle to hold the second of the belt to the first end of the belt, the short elastic portion being substantially beneath the keeper; and

Application No. 10/688,408  
Amendment dated September 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

(d) the short elastic portion ~~comprises~~ comprising a first elastic strip and a second elastic strip, the first elastic strip lying face to face to the second elastic strip and wherein the keeper is secured between the first elastic strip and the second elastic strip.